

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE IS JULY 1, 2005

ORDINANCE NO. 05-16-377

RE: An Ordinance changing the age at which dogs and cats are to be vaccinated against rabies; increasing the age at which county residents may obtain a dog or cat license at reduced rate; changing the expiration date for dog and cat licenses; increasing the fee to obtain a dog or cat license; and creating a new multiple animal license for the owners of multiple cats or dogs in addition to the existing kennel or cattery license

PREAMBLE

The Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County, Maryland (hereinafter "the Board"), desire to make the following changes to the present dog and cat license provisions of the Frederick County Code (hereinafter "the Code"):

A. Current Section 1-5-33 of the Code requires any dog or cat over the age of six (6) months of age to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies. The Annotated Code of Maryland, Health-General Article, Section 18-318, requires that a dog, cat or ferret that is four (4) months of age or older have the animal vaccinated against rabies. The Board desires to change Section 1-5-33 of the Code to be coextensive with State law.

B. Section 1-5-34(B) of the Code permits county residents age fifty-five (55) or older to obtain a dog or cat license at a reduced fee. The Board desires to increase the age at which a county resident is eligible for the reduced license fee from fifty-five (55) years of age to sixty-five (65) years of age.

C. Current Section 1-5-35 of the Code provides that a dog or cat license shall expire on June 30 of each calendar year. The Board desires to change the date on which a dog or cat license expires from June 30 of each calendar year to the date on which the rabies vaccination for that animal issued under Annotated Code of Maryland, Health-General Article, Section 18-319(a) expires.

D. Current Section 1-5-34(A) of the Code provides that the fee for a dog or cat license shall be ten dollars (\$10) for an unaltered dog or cat. The Board desires to increase the fee for an unaltered dog or cat license to fifteen dollars (\$15).

E. Current Section 1-5-34(B) of the Code provides that a county resident age fifty-five (55) or older may obtain a dog or cat license for a fee of five dollars (\$5) for an unaltered dog or cat. The Board desires to increase the fee for such licenses to seven dollars (\$7) for an unaltered dog or cat.

F. The Board desires to set the license fee for a spayed or neutered dog or cat at one-half (1/2) the license fee for an unaltered dog or cat.

G. Current Section 1-5-34(A) of the Code provides for a kennel or cattery license. These terms are not defined under Chapter 1-5 (Animals and Fowl) of the Code, but are defined and have certain significance under Chapter 1-19 of the Code (the Zoning Ordinance). The Board wishes to provide that the owner of multiple dogs or cats may obtain a "multiple domestic animal license" in addition to a kennel or cattery license. The fee for a "multiple domestic animal license" shall be the same as provided for a kennel or cattery license under Section 1-5-34(A) of the Code.

A duly advertised public hearing on this proposed Ordinance was held by the Board on June 21, 2005. The public had an opportunity to comment on the proposed Ordinance at this public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Frederick County Code be amended as follows:

Section 1-5-33. Required.

No persons shall own or have custody of any dog or cat over [6] 4 months of age unless such dog OR CAT is licensed as herein provided and has been vaccinated against rabies in a procedure approved by the Maryland Public Health Veterinarian. Proof of rabies vaccination shall be given to the seller of dog and cat licenses. This provision shall not apply to dogs or cats in the county owned by a nonresident, provided such dogs or cats are duly licensed in their home jurisdiction, providing the owner has a valid rabies vaccination certificate for said dog or cat while it is in the county.

Section 1-5-34. Application and Fees.

(A) Application for dog and cat licenses shall be made to the Frederick County Animal Control Center or any other authorized facility accompanied by a license fee of [\$5 for spayed or neutered dogs and cats and] [\$10] \$15 for unaltered dogs and cats FOR EACH YEAR; however, if individual licenses for owned dogs or cats exceed \$40, the owner may request a MULTIPLE DOMESTIC ANIMAL LICENSE, OR A blanket kennel or cattery license for \$40 FOR EACH YEAR, providing the owner gives duplicate copies of the rabies certificates to the county and the owner notifies the animal control center by the first of the following month of the transfer of ownership of any licensed dog or cat.

(B) County residents who are [55] 65 years of age or older can obtain dog or cat licenses at the rate of [\$3 for a spayed or neutered dog or cat and] [\$5] \$7 for an unaltered dog or cat.

(C) THE LICENSE FEE FOR A SPAYED OR NEUTERED DOG OR CAT UNDER SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) ABOVE SHALL BE ONE-HALF (1/2) THE FEE FOR AN UNALTERED DOG OR CAT.

[(C)][D] Applications for licenses may be made within 30 days following the establishment of residence within the county, or within 30 days following the procurement of a dog or cat, without penalty.

[(D)][E] "Seeing eye" dogs trained to assist the blind, "hearing ear" dogs trained to assist the hearing impaired and dogs trained and used by police in the official performance of their duties shall be provided licenses free of charge.

[(E)][F] Fees specified in this section may be modified at any time by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County, after a duly advertised public hearing.

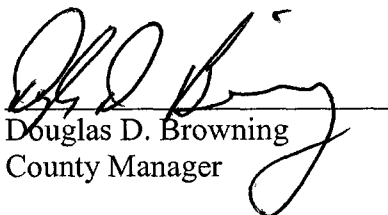
Section 1-5-35. License Expiration.

[Dog and cat licenses shall be valid for up to 1 year and shall expire on June 30 of each year.] THE LICENSE OF A DOG OR CAT SHALL EXPIRE WHEN THE RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATION FOR THAT ANIMAL ISSUED UNDER SECTION 18-319(A)(3) OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, HEALTH-GENERAL ARTICLE EXPIRES.

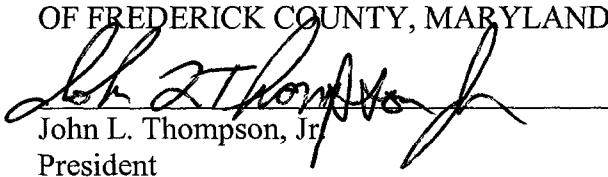
AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2005.

^{23rd} The undersigned hereby certifies that this Ordinance was approved and adopted on the day of June, 2005.

ATTEST:


Douglas D. Browning
County Manager

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND


John L. Thompson, Jr.
President

MJC 6/24/05